



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

Raised Bill No. 5523

LCO No. 1693



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY
PARAPROFESSIONAL STAFFING LEVELS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to study issues relating to paraprofessional staffing levels. Such study
3 shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of (1)
4 paraprofessional staffing requirements contained in individualized
5 education programs and the manner in which school districts are
6 complying with such requirements, (2) the causes of inadequate or
7 inappropriate paraprofessional staffing, (3) assignments given to
8 instructional and special education paraprofessionals, (4) the effect on
9 student learning and achievement when paraprofessionals are
10 removed from their assignments to serve as substitute teachers, (5)
11 paraprofessional staffing standards established or adopted in other
12 states, and (6) the cost to school districts for meeting appropriate and
13 adequate paraprofessional staffing levels.
- 14 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

15 (1) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
16 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
17 relating to education, or their designees, who may be members of the
18 General Assembly;

19 (2) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
20 who shall be an instructional paraprofessional;

21 (3) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
22 shall be a representative of the School Paraprofessional Advisory
23 Council, established pursuant to section 10-155k of the general
24 statutes;

25 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
26 Representatives, who shall be a special education paraprofessional;

27 (5) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
28 a teacher with experience working with paraprofessionals in the
29 classroom;

30 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
31 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut
32 Association of Boards of Education;

33 (7) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
34 a representative of the Connecticut Association of Public School
35 Superintendents;

36 (8) One appointed by the Governor, who shall be a school
37 administrator; and

38 (9) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

39 (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
40 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
41 filled by the appointing authority.

42 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
 43 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
 44 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
 45 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not
 46 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

47 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
 48 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
 49 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

50 (f) Not later than January 1, 2015, the task force shall submit the
 51 study described in subsection (a) of this section and any
 52 recommendations for legislation arising out of such study to the joint
 53 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 54 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
 55 section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on
 56 the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2015, whichever is
 57 later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a task force to study issues relating to paraprofessional staffing levels.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]